

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-10 and 18-20 are pending in this application. Withdrawn claims 11-17 are canceled by the present response without prejudice. Claims 8-10 stand withdrawn from consideration. Claims 1, 2, 6, 7, 18, and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by U.S. patent 5,427,579 to Kanehara et al. (herein "Kanehara"). Claims 3-5 and 20 were objected to as dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were noted as allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of their base claim and any intervening claims.

Initially, applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication of the allowable subject matter in claims 3-5 and 20. With respect to that indication of allowable subject matter, new claims 21-24 are submitted in the present response. New independent claim 21 corresponds to previously pending dependent claim 3 rewritten in independent form, and thus recites subject matter indicated as allowable in the outstanding Office Action. New claims 22 and 23 correspond to previously pending claims 4 and 5, and depend from new independent claim 21. Further, new independent claim 24 corresponds to previously pending dependent claim 20 rewritten in independent form, and thus also recites subject matter indicated as allowable in the outstanding Office Action. Thereby, applicants respectfully submit new claims 21-24 recite allowable subject matter.

Addressing now the rejection of claims 1, 2, 6, 7, 18, and 19 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Kanehara, that rejection is traversed by the present response.

Independent claim 1 is amended by the present response to clarify a feature recited therein. Specifically, independent claim 1 now recites that "when the thrust of at least one of the driving pulley and the thrust of the following pulley is changed, the thrust of at least one of the driving pulley and the following pulley is controlled based on the state of change of the

thrust ratio". Support for the claim amendments is provided in the present specification at page 12, lines 11-26, as one example. The features clarified in the claims are believed to clearly distinguish the rejected claims over the applied art.

Applicants submit that in Kanehara a thrust ratio is controlled such that a speed ratio ia is kept constant. That is, as shown for example at steps S4 and S5 in Figure 4 in Kanehara, a thrust ratio is utilized as a control amount to maintain the speed ratio ia constant. Kanehara specifically discloses an operation of determining an axial thrust force ratio "between an axial thrust force Q_{DR} which needs to be applied from the cylinder 14 to the belt 15 and an axial thrust ratio Q_{DN} which needs to be applied from the cylinder 19 to the belt 15 to keep the present speed ratio ia steadily".¹

Independent claim 1 recites a different operation than that in Kanehara. More particularly, in independent claim 1 when the thrust of at least one of the driving pulley and the following pulley is changed, resulting in a change in the thrust ratio, the thrust of at least one of the driving pulley and the following pulley is controlled based on a state of change of the thrust ratio. That is, in claim 1 a pulley thrust is controlled, for example so that a belt does not slip, based on a state of change of a thrust ratio when the pulley thrust is changed. Thereby, in claim 1 the thrust ratio is a parameter for controlling the pulley thrust, and the pulley thrust is the control amount, which is in contrast to the teachings in Kanehara.

In such ways, claim 1 as currently written and Kanehara differ in the manner in which a thrust ratio is utilized.

In view of these foregoing comments, applicants respectfully submit amended independent claim 1, and the claims dependent therefrom, patentably distinguish over Kanehara.

¹ Kanehara at column 10, lines 31-35.

Applicant also notes withdrawn claims 8-10 are still pending in this application, and each of those withdrawn claims depends from independent claim 1. That is, independent claim 1 is generic to withdrawn claims 8-10; therefore, applicants respectfully submit claims 8-10 are also allowable and must now be reinstated.

In view of the present response, applicants respectfully submit each of pending claims 1-10 and 18-24 is allowable.

As no other issues are pending in this application, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and it is hereby respectfully requested that this case be passed to issue.

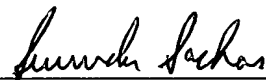
Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.
Norman F. Oblon

Customer Number

22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 06/04)
NFO/SNS/rac



Surinder Sachar
Registration No. 34,423